Site Specific Exhibition Elixir Green Dragon Lane

Don't Bank on the Past.

There was initial confusion over where the exhibition was to be held.

It was Green Dragon Lane then Three Lamps and finally Green Dragon Lane.

There was further complications over access. There were several occasions when we were unable to gain access to the site.

This did reduce the amount of time we had to setup and test the installations.

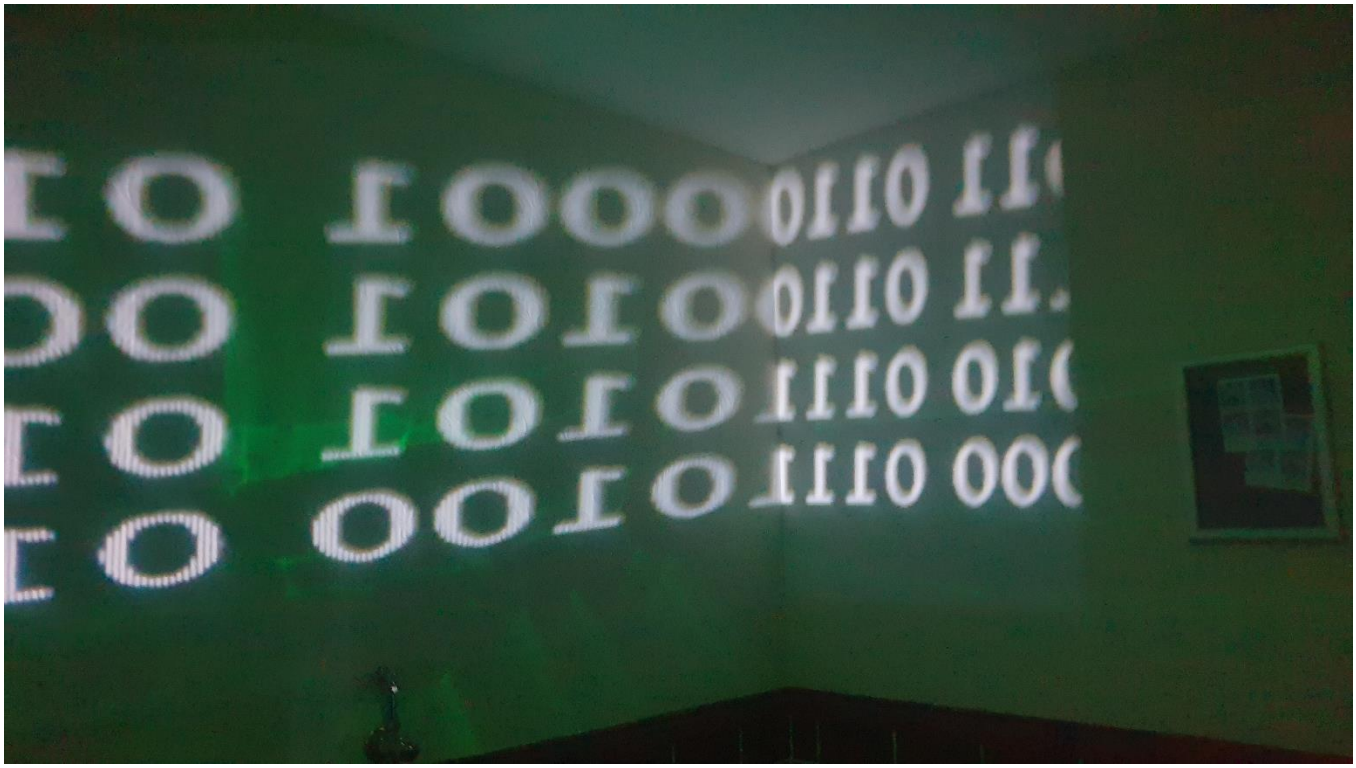
Our initial idea was to recreate a 1920's style bar, using projection and props.

Thanks to Derek's' vast collection of clothing we were able to procure several garments suitable for the era.

We then planned to shoot the video in another bar with friends wearing the period costumes. This video would then be projected in the site.

After discussions with lecturers and with our time constraints we decided to expand upon their ideas and concentrate on the fact that the building had been a bank before it was a bar and experiment with the concept of money, finance, cashless purchases, online payments and digital transactions. Also the security and surveillance associated with payment using credit cards and contactless technology.

Value



Binary is at the heart of all technology.

Digital surveillance. All our financial transactions are tracked and our purchases logged. The data is used to build a profile, which is then sold to 3rd parties for various uses, such as targeted advertising and offering tailored goods and serviced based on our spending. Our personal details are the currency of the digital realm, this is the price we pay for “free” use of apps and websites. Privacy is lost in the name of convenience.

Our projection is a digitised version of several relevant quotes converted into binary code.

“Money has value because People agree to give it value.”

“We are blindfolded.”

“Can we trust the digital world?”

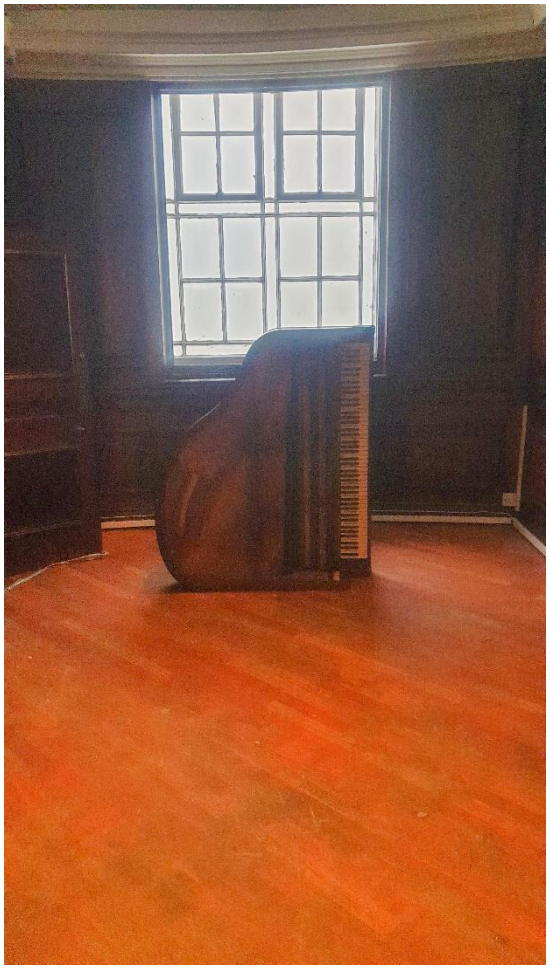
The fact that it was in a men only area was also relevant as most financial institutions tend to be an almost exclusively staffed by men.

The Sound of Bankruptcy.

The sound piece was created by using software to convert a document into sound.

We chose “The Swansea Economic Profile” as our document, which give financial information specific to Swansea.

It was played on a continuous loop and could be heard from all areas of the site. Drawing people further into the space. It was further accentuated by the overhead flashing light.



“Live” projection from surveillance cameras

Our primary goal was to project live feed from the many cameras inside and outside the building. Allowing people to see on entry, the rest of the exhibits, other people inside and outside the building and themselves. This would also enable us to send live feed via social media, giving access to a vast new audience.

Researching Apps to use on our phones I quickly had the camera casting to a second device, without using an external network as the site had no Wi-Fi of any kind.

After many hours of testing and using various different types of technology I was unable to get the connection to work. Probably because of the density of the structure. There was no signal after moving just a few feet into the building.

We had to come up with a plan “B”, so decided to record footage we could project via the iPad onto the ceiling in place of the live feed. We also uploaded it to social media, which at least gave some sense of what we were trying to achieve.